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Contracts for three months or longer
will be made at reduced rates.
All communications which subserve
private interests will be charged for
as advertisements.
Obituaries and tributes of respect
will be charged for.
The Sumter Watchman was found-
ed in 1859 and the True Southron in
1865. The Watchman and Southron
now has the combined circulation and
influence of both of the old papers,
and is manifestly the best advertising
medium in Sumter.

POSTAL SERVICE EDUCATION.

Nearly three years ago citizens of
the Park View school district in
Washington, D. C., sent the following
communication to the board of educa-
tion:

"We may comprehend the purpose
of the public school within the word
'education,' fostering the development
of the capacity of individuals for ef-
ficient participation as citizens of our
democracy. Exactly this is the pri-
mary purpose of the postal service.
Going past its secondary and incident-
al function as a convenience of pri-
vate intercourse, the United States
Postal Commission of 1844 declared
the fundamental purpose of the pos-
tal service to be education, defining
that purpose in these words:

"To render the citizen worthy, by
proper knowledge and intelligence, of
his important privileges as a sov-
ereign constituent of the government; to
diffuse enlightenment, social im-
provement, national affluence, elevat-
ing our people in the scale of civiliza-
tion, and bringing them together in
patriotic affection."

The Park View citizens therefore
requested the establishment of a pos-
tal station in their school building.
They have now had it for two years,
and pronounce the experiment whol-
ly successful.

The school pupils attend largely to
the postal affairs of their families.
They mail letters, insure packages,
learn weights and rates of different
classes of mail matter, register let-
ters, make out money-order applica-
tions, learn about postal zones, and
so are brought into direct personal re-
lation with the greatest institution of
world interchange, according to a re-
cent issue of School Life.

In a day when the average citizen's
chief thought of the postal service is
one of impatience and adverse criti-
cism, this view of its possibilities as
a part of education is almost a re-
velation.

After all, is there not
chance that some of the alleged in-
efficiency of the postal service today is
due to the fact that the public is so
little educated in its purposes and
ways? Any one who stood in line for
almost any postoffice in the country
during the Christmas mailing season
must admit in honesty that a gen-
eral proportion of the delays and in-
efficiency were due to the private citi-
zens who were ignorant of every
step of procedure. The officials who
weighed and insured and stamped
packages hours at a time made rare
mistakes and explained details to the
malling throng again and again with
almost superhuman patience.

In fairness to citizens and pos-
tal service alike, it might be well to have
more postal station schools for every-
body.

GERMAN REPARATION.

When it came to settling up the
war, French and British extremists
wanted to make Germany pay \$40,-
000,000,000 to \$50,000,000,000 repara-
tion. Level-headed economists ex-
plained that, although Germany was
morally responsible for greater dam-
ages than that, it was impossible to
impose any such a huge obligation on
her with any reasonable hope of see-
ing it fulfilled.

The total wealth of the German
empire, less state and national debts,
before the war was only \$75,000,-
000,000. That wealth was considerably
shrunk by the war. If the nation's
own domestic war debt were consid-
ered, it was doubtful whether the
net wealth of the country at the time
of the armistice amounted to \$40,-
000,000,000. The economists point-
ed out that you cannot take from a
debtor any more than that debtor
has, and in the case of a country you
cannot take as much, because so large
a part of a nation's wealth is im-
measurable real estate.

The only possibility of getting any
large sum from Germany was by
leaving the nation its "plant" to
work with, and merely levying on the
profit from year to year until the
reckoning was paid. And it was recog-
nized that even then there were
limits beyond which the piles could
not safely go, because if the obliga-
tions were so large as to bankrupt
German industry and finance or ut-
terly discourage the spirit of the
German people, they would not pro-
duce anything beyond a bare living
for themselves, and so there would
be nothing to make reparation with.

It was generally felt, however, a
year ago, that Germany might be able
to pay as much as 100,000,000,000
marks, or about \$24,000,000,000 in
gold, under favorable conditions. The
second financial conference which is
to resume its sessions in Brussels on
January 1, is said to be doubtful
about that figure. There is a general
impression that the sum will ulti-
mately be fixed at something like \$15,-
000,000,000, and it is believed that
if it were made as low as that Ger-
many would make a sincere effort to
pay it.

The situation is bitterly disappoint-
ing to the allied nations that suffered
so severely at Germany's hands, par-
ticularly France and Belgium; but
they may reconcile themselves on the
ground that a quarter of a loaf is
better than nothing, and that they
dare not drive Germany into com-
plete bankruptcy and despair lest
their own finance and industry col-
lapse along with hers.

ROYAL PRICES.

President Wilson is said to have
been offered \$150,000 by a syndicate
to run a single newspaper article, to be
the first article written by him after
leaving the White House. It is a
 princely offer. He is said to have
refused it, however, on the ground
that no article written by him or any
other living man could be worth so
much money as that.

If the story is true, it does the
president high honor. It also serves
as an example sadly needed in these
days. Can anyone imagine Theodore
Roosevelt declining such an offer?

It is the literal truth that no news-
paper article, or no magazine article,
could be worth \$150,000 if its real
value were reckoned. Any syndicate
making such an offer must have had
in mind an artificial value, partly
created by a historic situation and
partly trumped up by spectacular ad-
vertising. There have been altogether
too many inflations of the sort in
the newspaper and magazine fields, in
the theatrical and operatic fields and
many others. The offer is of a piece
with the whole complex system of in-
flation for which the country has paid
so grievously in the last few years,
and is still paying.

While we are getting "back to nor-
mality" it is just as well to get back to
all such matters as these, as well as
in the more obvious phases of indus-
try and government—back to real
values, with no man getting several
times as much for any article or any
service as it is worth. The ba-
nality of such absurd payments has
had as much to do as anything else
with the general inflation of prices in
all sorts of commodities.

BUYING HOMES.

The great home-owning era which
was to follow the war came to a sud-
den standstill when real estate and
building prices began to soar, but
here and there it is showing signs of
life again, especially where prices
have been reduced a little.

One real estate concern which had
done little business for months, and
expected to do little for months more,
found its sales for the week preced-
ing Christmas the largest it has ever
recorded. The idea of a home as a
family Christmas gift showed un-
expected popularity. The company
argues improving business conditions
from these increased sales.

Industrial readjustments have tem-
pered the housing situation and
brought rents down a little in most
communities, but apparently the pub-
lic has not forgotten its lesson. Since
nothing argues permanency or pro-
motes stability like home-ownership,
activity in this line may be considered
a bright omen for the future.

LINOTYPE SPEED
RECORD BROKEN

On a Model 3 Linotype that has
been in continuous use for sixteen
years, P. Frank Patton Thursday
morning made a typesetting record
that is believed to be the world's re-
cord for six hours, using seven point
type. In that time he set 3,114 lines
newspaper matter, 13 ems, 7 point
on 8 point slug, an average of 519
lines an hour and a total of 69,286
ems, or an average of 11,548 ems an
hour. The copy was the regular run
of copy from the book and the operat-
ing conditions were the same "as
obtain every day in the week, the
machine running nine and one-half
lines per minute. The record run was
made between 8 a. m. and 2 p. m.

The Linotype on which this record
was made was the first Linotype pur-
chased by The Daily Item and was in-
stalled about the first of November,
1914. It has been in daily operation
every day, except Sunday since it
was installed, and for many months
at a time it has been operated night
and day shifts.

Mr. Patton, who has long had a
reputation in this section of the
South as a Linotype swift, has been
with the Daily Item since 1905, ex-
cept for a few months last summer
when he was with the Asheville,
N. C. Citizen. He learned to operate
on the same machine that he used
in making the record run.

"Too Much Crime in New York"
says a headline. Just how much
would be enough?—Greenville (S. C.)
Piedmont.

AROUND THE WORLD
IN SEVEN NEW YEARS

Washington, Dec. 31.—"The Ameri-
can is apt to regard his New Year
as The New Year. Had he a pen-
chant for celebrating holidays he
could travel in a more or less leisure-
ly way around the world, and in the
course of the year could participate
in six or seven New Year festivities,
adding a couple of Christmas celebra-
tions for good measure," according to
a bulletin from the Washington, D.
C., headquarters of the National
Geographic Society.

"Our American might start his
progressive holiday jaunt by going to
some western European country for
the approaching New Year while the
United States too will celebrate. He
could then travel to Greece, Jugo-
slavia, Rumania or Bulgaria in time
for Christmas in those countries.
Christmas is also December 25 in the
countries named, according to their
calendars, but corresponds to Janu-
ary 1 in America.

A Five Day New Year Period in
China.

"By remaining a week in the same
country he could also spend New Year
day called January 1 but correspond-
ing with the American and western
European January 14. By pushing
on and making good connections he
might be able to reach Singapore, or
by supplementing steamers with air-
planes could reach China itself to
take part in the most thorough go-
ing New Year celebration in the
world, the Chinese New Year which
will be observed in 1921 for the five
days from about February 8 to 13.

"After the Chinese New Year celebra-
tion the traveler could pursue his
holiday hunting less strenuously for
a while. He could arrange to arrive
in Siam in time for the Siam New
Year on April 1, and afterward could
have five months of sightseeing be-
fore reaching Arabia for the Moham-
medan New Year on September 4. He
could then cross the Red Sea and
make a quick journey into Abyssinia
to take part in the New Year festi-
vities of that country on September
10. Returning to the Red Sea and
taking a steamer north he could easily
reach Jerusalem in good time for
the Hebrew New Year, October 3.

"The holiday hunter would not
have taken part in all the principal
New Year celebrations of the world
and could return to the Western
Hemisphere to spend the Christmas
with which he is most familiar at his
own hearth side. In six days less
than a year he would have chalked
up seven New Year and two Christ-
mas celebrations to his credit.

World's Calendars in a Tangle.

"The world's multiplicity of New
Year Days and Christmas is due to
the fact that our calendar is pug-
nantly an arbitrary device. The earth re-
volves around the sun in 365.2422
days, which makes the true year a
very odd measure of time. And it is
almost as difficult to choose a logical
basis for a calendar as it is to

divide the year to be of signify-
cantly different lengths. This has not only resulted
in the years beginning at different
times but has also caused the times
of beginning to vary in their relation
to one another from year to year. It
is as though a clock had half a dozen
or more hands all moving around the
dial from different starting points, at
different speeds.

"The most logical starting point
for the year would seem to be sum-
mer and winter solstices and the
spring and autumnal equinoxes; and
all of them have been made to mark
the beginnings of the years in some
parts of the world. The Gregorian
calendar, that is now in use in the
United States and throughout most of
the Christian world, is the Julian cal-
endar slightly modified. When Julius
Caesar caused it to be constructed,
the beginning of the year, January 1,
was placed seven days after the win-
ter solstice, and not in conjunction
with it as logic would seem to dic-
tate. The Julian year was made, by
means of the 'leap year' device,
365.25 days long, which was an excess
over the true year of 11 minutes and
14 seconds. This excess caused the
nominal January 1 to creep gradu-
ally farther and farther beyond the
winter solstice so that by the time
of the Church Council of Nice in 325
it was eleven days beyond the solstice
instead of seven.

New Year Day Moving Toward Sum-
mer.

"By the time of Pope Gregory's
correction in 1582, January 1 was 21
days beyond the solstice and Christ-
mas 14 beyond. If the calendar had
remained uncorrected, New Year
day would have gone on creeping for-
ward, first into spring, then into sum-
mer, and finally completely around the
year.

"When the correction was made
the calendar was turned back not to
its original position in the time of
Julius Caesar, but to its place at the
time of the Council of Nice. Decem-
ber 25, which became Christmas,
then fell four days after the winter
solstice instead of coinciding with it
as Julius Caesar intended; while New
Year Day was eleven days beyond the
solstice instead of Caesar's almost
equally arbitrary seven. The calen-
dar is now kept practically at its
Gregorian resting place by the expedi-
ent of adding to the extra leap
year day three times in the course
of 400 years—on the century years
not divisible by 400. The remaining
error is so slight that it would
amount to little more than a day in
100,000 years.

Greeks Stick to Faulty Calendar.

"In the meantime, the countries in
which the Greek Church is dominant
have refused to accept the Gregorian
corrections and continue to use the
old style or Julian calendar. The
difference, which was ten days in
1582, has now increased to thirteen
days.

"Soviet Russia has officially adopted
the Gregorian calendar for civil pur-
poses and the same step has been



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taken by most of the Baltic states
made up of territory of the former
Russian empire. The Gregorian or
'New Style' calendar also is coming
into more general use in Asia due to
the commercial penetration of west-
ern countries. As a result of the
great war, directly or indirectly, the
world is now closer than at any
time in its history to having a single,
astronomically correct system of
measuring time."

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS
TO INSTALL OFFICERS

The following is a list of the offi-
cers, who were elected at a recent
meeting of the K. of P. to serve for
the ensuing term in the Gamecock
Lodge No. 17 Knights of Pythias.

The annual installation ceremonies
will be held this year at the lodge
room on Monday night, January 3.
The officers who are to take their
oath of office follow:
C. C.—J. O. Barwick.
V. C.—E. L. Brown.
Prelate—C. B. Walsh.
K. of R's.—R. E. Wilder.
M. of F.—R. E. Wilder.
M. A.—D. W. Cuttino, Jr.
M. W.—Ben Slovis.
M. E.—J. A. Middleton.
Outer Guard—J. A. Smith.
Inner Guard—M. D. Werner.

Marriage Licenses

Marriage licenses have been issued
to the following colored couples:
James Spann of Dade and Hattie
Cahlag, stalk of Sumter.
James Walker and Martha A. Mil-
ler of Rembert.

Ben Walker of Mayesville and Mat-
tie Dwyer, of Sumter.
James Yates and Jennie Carter of
Onwego.

Willie McFadden and Zola May
son of Erogon.
J. W. Brunson and Carrie A. Wor-
ley of Sumter.

Coal Output of Belgium Increased.
Brussels, Dec. 14.—The pre-war
output of Belgium was exceed-
ingly high during the

the fake Eddie Rickenbaker who
has been making trouble in Florida
is a living example of the unpleas-
antness generally caused by the turn-
ing of an extra ace.—Philadelphia
American

hat Denver sheriff is not so bad
after all. He gets them and loses
them. Our sheriff doesn't get them
at all.—Buffalo Express.

MISSING BALLOON
FOUND IN CANADA

Big Bag Landed in Remote Ter-
ritory in Ontario

Rockaway, N. Y., Jan. 2.—The miss-
ing navy balloon, A-5598, landed 10
miles northeast of Moose Factory,
Ontario, December 14, and the crew
of three men is safe at Hudson bay
trading post, according to a telegram
received at the naval air station here
tonight.

The A-5598 left here shortly after
noon Monday, December 13. No defi-
nite destination was planned, but the
wind blowing northwest indicated
a landing somewhere in Canada. With
the exception of a report that the
balloon was seen passing over Wells,
N. Y., late that same night, no defi-
nite word was received here of the
progress of the flight.

The balloon carried a crew of three
men. Lieut. Walter Hinton of Lake
Habor, N. Y., a pilot under Com-
mander Albert C. Reed, on the NC-4's
trans-Atlantic flight was in charge.
His companions were Lieuts. Stephen
A. Farrell, a line officer of this city,
and Louis A. Kloor, Jr., of New Or-
leans, naval reserve force, pilot. The
three officers were supplied with nor-
mal rations for three days which
would serve them for ten days in
emergency. They had furlined gar-
ments and electrically heated warm-
ers to make their voyage more com-
fortable.

Ninety-six hours after the balloon's
departure, when fears were first felt
for the safety of the aeronauts, wire-
less stations and forest rangers in
northern New York and southeastern
Canada were notified to be on the
lookout for the balloon.

A few days later two army air-
planes were sent from Mitchell field
to Albany to begin an aeronautical
search over the Adirondack moun-
tains. One of the machines met with
a mishap on the flight from Albany
to Glenn Falls, their proposed base
of operations, and the other con-
tinued the search but without

success. Aeronauts who were ap-
prised of the flight, first advanced the
theory that the aeronauts had landed
in some remote section and probably
would make their way to a lumber
camp or trading post.

As the aeronauts safely were
received in the following telegram
from them from Mattice, Ont.:

Driven by storm Monday, 12-13,
west by north, at lower Hudson bay
forced to land 2 p. m. 12-14, about

ten miles north by east of Moose
Factory, Ontario latitude 51.50; longi-
tude 81.9. Lost in forest four days.
Crew safe at Hudson company post.
Will leave on first available means
of transportation to railroad which is
by dog sled and will take about nine
days, leaving here Monday, Decem-
ber 27."

Moose Factory, where the balloon
landed, is located on James Bay at
the mouth of the Moose river and is
about 800 miles distant from New
York on a direct air line. The place
is a trading post and out-post of
the Hudson Bay company.

Officers at the naval station to-
night expressed the opinion that the
balloon was probably wrecked. They
pointed out that although the craft
may have descended without dam-
age, after deflation the winds would
have lashed it to pieces against the
trees of the northwoods.

No attempt will be made to sal-
vage the aircraft if intact, they said,
until spring when the snow disap-
pears and traveling over the hazard-
ous trails becomes safe.

Former Kaiser Has Private Detective.

Doorn, Holland, Dec. 31.—The
former German Emperor William
has personally engaged a private de-
tective to keep an eye on strangers in
the village of Doorn. This is in addi-
tion to the state police who guard
the House of Doorn, his new home.

BEEES

Now is a good time to buy and
move Dees. I have some that I
am willing to sell at reasonable
prices. They are in improved
hives, movable frames, and the
bees all right. There is nothing
that will pay more profit on the
investment, with as little work,
as a hive of bees. If you want any
more, I am preparing to
move the location of my apiary
and would like to dispose of what
I have for sale before moving.

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Payment of Claims. No business allowed to remain in-
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is Perfect. We represent twenty companies, among
them are the largest and second largest in the business.

With New Year's Greetings and Gratitude to our
friends.

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